

Asheville Police Department

2nd Annual Drug Report: August 1, 2005 - July 31, 2006

The Asheville Police Department Drug Suppression Unit (DSU) formally began operations on August 1, 2004. This fourteen member unit was tasked with combating street-level drug dealing in the neighborhoods and public housing areas of Asheville. In December of 2004, the Asheville Police Department assigned detectives to the Criminal Investigations Division Drug Unit (CDU) and began concentrating solely on drug traffickers and distributors within the City Limits of Asheville.

During this reporting period, DSU and CDU were combined within the same office space to increase communication and cooperation and began attacking all aspects of the illegal drug trade in Asheville, from the drug buyers and street-level dealers, to the mid-level and high-level distributors and importers. DSU and CDU were actively assisted by members of the Patrol Division. Drug intelligence information was shared between DSU, CDU, and Patrol which has resulted in increased drug arrests and seizures by Patrol Officers.

This report highlights the impressive work of all the Asheville Police Department Officers who dedicated themselves to reducing the negative impact that illegal drugs make on the City of Asheville to positively impact our citizen's quality of life. The following is a year in review:

Drug Arrests:

<u># of Suspects Arrested</u>		<u># of Drug Dealers Arrested</u>	
DSU/ CDU:	341		167
Patrol:	228		129
<hr/> Total:		569	<hr/> 296

- There were 569 drug suspects arrested during this reporting period. Of this 569 people, 296 were charged with selling illegal drugs or possessing illegal drugs with the intent to sell or distribute.
- DSU and our citizenry have observed that the number of street open air dealers have dramatically decreased this reporting period when compared with the last period. The dealers are changing their tactics so we have to do the same.

Illegal Drugs Seized:**Crack Cocaine / # of "rocks" seized:**

DSU and CDU: 6,322 rocks

Patrol: 2,580 rocks

Total: 8902 rocks of crack cocaine seized.

- The street value of this crack cocaine would be approximately \$222,550.00

Powder Cocaine Seized:

DSU and CDU: 11.1 kilograms or 24.42 pounds

Patrol: 7 kilograms or 15.4 pounds

Total: 18.1 kilograms or 39.82 pounds

- The street value of this cocaine would be approximately \$506,800.00
- If this amount of powder cocaine had been turned into crack cocaine, the street value would have been in excess of \$2 million dollars.

Processed Marijuana Seized:

DSU and CDU: 12,977.2 grams

Patrol: 4216 grams

Total: 17,193.2 grams

- This processed marijuana equates to 38.38 pounds.
- The street value of the processed marijuana is approximately \$92,113.50
- DSU/CDU also seized 20 marijuana plants as part of an indoor grow operation. These 20 plants would have yielded as much as 20 pounds of processed marijuana.
- The street value of the plant marijuana once processed would have been approximately \$48,000.00

Methamphetamine Seized:

DSU and CDU: 12.0 grams

Patrol: 321.7 grams

Total: 333.7 grams

- The street value of this methamphetamine is approximately \$50,055.00
- There continues to be much more methamphetamine sales and trafficking in surrounding jurisdictions while Asheville's drug of choice remains as cocaine.

Ecstasy / MDMA Seized:

DSU and CDU: 62 dosage units

Patrol: 45 dosage units

Total: 107 dosage units

- The street value of this Ecstasy is approximately \$2140.00

LSD Seized:

DSU and CDU: 2017 dosage units

Patrol: 0 dosage units

Total: 2017 dosage units

- The street value of this LSD is approximately \$10,085.00

Psilocybin Mushrooms Seized:

DSU and CDU: 443.0 grams

Patrol: 7.8 grams

Total: 450.8 grams

- The street value of this psilocybin is approximately \$4508.00

All other Drugs / Pharmaceuticals Seized:

DSU and CDU: 34 dosage units

Patrol: 3658.25 dosage units

Total: 3692.25 dosage units

- This category includes Hydrocodone, Xanax, Methadone, Vicodin, Morphine, Oxycontin, Diazepam, Fentanyl, and other prescription drugs that are frequently misused or distributed illegally.
- The street value of these drugs is approximately \$18,461.25

****The total value of all drugs seized during this reporting period was: \$954,712.75**

U.S. Currency Seized:

DSU and CDU: \$187,487.16

Patrol: \$147,972.25

Total: \$335,459.41

- The above amount represents all of the illegal drug funds seized in the course of APD drug investigations. Only a portion of this amount is retained by APD. The remainder is used to pay fines, court costs and processing fees by the North Carolina Controlled Substance Tax Office and Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Asset Forfeitures are federally regulated as well as restricted and can only be spent in support of law enforcement duties or functions.

Firearms Seized:

DSU and CDU: 58 guns

Patrol: 32 guns

Total: 90 guns

- These 90 firearms seized represent weapons used during illegal drug transactions, stolen guns, and guns possessed (illegally) by convicted felons.

Vehicles Seized:

DSU and CDU: 15 vehicles seized pending forfeiture

Patrol: 4 vehicles seized pending forfeiture

Total: 19 vehicles seized pending forfeiture

- These vehicles were seized during the course of drug investigations and held pending forfeiture or other disposition of the court.
- Three vehicles have been turned over to financial institutions to satisfy repossession requests.

Other:

- DSU Officers located and recovered 5 stolen vehicles during their drug investigations.
- CDU Officers located and dismantled 1 clandestine methamphetamine lab during this reporting period.
- DSU and CDU have executed 25 Drug Search Warrants during this reporting period.
- DSU has conducted 49 hours of Surveillance Operations during this reporting period.
- CDU has conducted 645 hours of Surveillance Operations during this reporting period.
- CDU has conducted 118 hours of Interviews during this reporting period.